

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information providing system comprising:

a printer;

a user terminal connected to said printer and sending print information to said printer; and

5 an information providing server delivering information via a communication line,

wherein said printer comprises:

means for acquiring the information delivered from said information providing server, said means for acquiring
10 the information being connected to said information providing server via the communication line;

means for printing the acquired information according to a print instruction received from said user terminal; and

15 means for notifying an amount of information acquired from said information providing server and printed,

wherein said user terminal comprises:

means for sending a print instruction to said printer; and

20 means for setting a print format of the information, which is acquired from said information providing server, in said printer, and

wherein said information providing server comprises:

means for calculating a total of the amount of

25 information notified by said printer.

2. The information providing system as defined by claim 1 wherein said printer prints the information when the information is acquired from said information providing server.

3. The information providing system as defined by claim 1 wherein said printer prints the information when the information acquired from said information providing server is updated from the information acquired last.

4. The information providing system as defined by claim 1 wherein, when said printer prints the information received from said user terminal, said printer prints the information, which is acquired from said information providing server, in a margin 5 of the print medium.

5. The information providing system as defined by claim 1 wherein, when said printer prints the information received from said user terminal, said printer prints the information, which is acquired from said information providing server, in a margin 5 of the print medium, said print margin being produced by reducing a predetermined print field of the information.

6. The information providing system as defined by claim 1 wherein, when said printer prints the information received from said user terminal, said printer combines the information acquired from said information providing server and prints the 5 information in a blank portion of a print field of the information.

7. The information providing system as defined by claim 1 wherein said printer prints the information, which is acquired from said information providing server, on a reverse side of the print medium on which the information from said user terminal
5 is to be printed.

8. The information providing system as defined by claim 1 wherein the communication line is a line connected to the Internet.

9. An information providing method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing, by an information provider, information into an information providing server;

5 (b) by a printer of a customer, acquiring the information stored in said information providing server, printing the information on a print medium, and notifying an amount of the printed information to said information providing server; and

10 (c) paying consideration to the customer by the information provider based on the notified amount of information.

10. The information providing method as defined by claim 9 wherein said information providing server and said printer are connected via the Internet.

11. An information providing method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing, by an information provider, information into an information providing server;

(b) lending printer from the information provider to
5 a customer;

(c) by said printer, acquiring the information stored
in said information providing server, printing the information
on a print medium, and notifying an amount of the printed
information to said information providing server; and

10 (d) collecting, by the information provider, an amount
of value corresponding to a rental charge of said printer from
the customer based on the notified amount of information.

12. The information providing method as defined by claim 11
wherein said information providing server and said printer are
connected via the Internet.

13. An information providing system comprising:

an information providing server having means for
storing information to be provided to customers;

means for setting a printer at a customer so as to
5 acquire the information stored in said information providing
server, to print the information, and to notify an amount of the
printed information to said information providing server;

wherein said information providing server comprising
means for paying the customer by an information provider based
10 on the notified amount of the printed information.

14. The information providing system as defined by claim 13
wherein said information providing server and said printer are
connected via an Internet.

15. An information providing system comprising:

an information providing server having means for storing, by an information provider, information to be provided to customers;

5 means for registering a printer lent from the information provider to a customer;

means for setting said printer so as to acquire the information stored in said information providing server, to print the acquired information, and to notify an amount of the
10 printed information to said information providing server; and

means for collecting a rental charge of said printer from the customer based on the notified amount of information.

16. The information providing system as defined by claim 15 wherein said information providing server and said printer are connected via an Internet.

17. The information providing system as defined by claim 15, wherein said means for setting the printer includes a program which performs said setting through being accessed by said printer.

18. A computer readable program product for performing an information providing service, the program product comprising the steps of;

(a) storing information to be provided to customers in
5 an information providing server;

(b) setting a printer at a customer so as to acquire

the information stored in said information providing server, to print the information, and to notify an amount of the printed information to said information providing server;

10 (c) paying the customer based on the notified amount of the printed information.

19. A computer readable program product for performing an information providing service, the program product comprising the steps of;

5 (a) storing information to be provided to customers in an information providing server;

(b) registering a printer lent from an information provider to a customer;

10 (c) setting said printer so as to acquire the information stored in said information providing server, to print the acquired information, and to notify an amount of the printed information to said information providing server; and

(d) collecting an amount of value corresponding to a rental charge of said printer from the customer based on the notified amount of the printed information.

20. The program product as defined by claim 19, wherein said amount of value corresponds to a rental charge less an amount associated with the notified amount of the printer information.